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Environment Secretary Criticizes EPA's Policy Memo on Deseret Power Electric Cooperative Case

Federal Agency States Carbon Dioxide Is Not Regulated Pollutant for Facilities Requiring Air Quality Permits

(Santa Fe, NM) – New Mexico Environment Department Secretary Ron Curry issued the following statement today on the EPA's Policy Memo on Deseret Power Electric Cooperative Case:

“The EPA's decision today to rush out a last-minute interpretative policy statement on the Deseret case exemplifies the detrimental effects the Bush Administration has had on the environment. The federal Environmental Appeals Board remanded the issue back to EPA so the agency could consider the points in the case but instead, EPA decided to reward its powerful friends in the electric industry. The EPA's memo declares carbon dioxide is not a regulated pollutant for any facility that requires an air quality permit – negating the need for carbon dioxide controls in the permitting process for the nation's largest sources of pollution. The New Mexico Environment Department's position is that the federal Clean Air Act allows the state to consider carbon dioxide as a regulated pollutant for any facility that requires an air quality permit. We are confident that this flawed and bogus policy decision will be overturned by the new administration.”

The following is a link to the EPA's memo regarding Deseret:
http://www.epa.gov/nsr/documents/psd_interpretive_memo_12.18.08.pdf

For more information, call Marissa Stone at (505) 827-0314.

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